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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1911.

A Lesson in Politics.

The usual experience in American politics that the Democratic party is harmonious until election day approaches, while the Republicans indulge in all manner of disputes until the time comes to cast their ballots, when they once again present a solid array.

Nothing could better illustrate the discipline and cohesion of the Republican organization than the spirit in which President Taft's message urging a reduction in the duties on wool has been received. It is unnecessary to emphasize the fact that the woolen schedule has been regarded by the standstillers in the Republican party as embodying in perfect degree the principles of protection, and they have defended it in the past against any suggestion of change. Now, however, when President Taft, supported by the tariff board, asserts that the duties upon raw wool and woolen manufactures are unreasonably excessive, he finds ready acquiescence on the part of those who have hitherto been antagonistic to reduction. They propose to accept his recommendation that the schedules shall be lowered.

There is only one explanation to this situation. The Republican high protectionists appreciate the fact that Mr. Taft is to be the nominee of their party next year. Regarding this as settled, they accept his leadership, even at the sacrifice of previous convictions, rather than jeopardize the solidity of their political organization. It is thus demonstrated that Mr. Taft is not only the titular but the actual leader of his party. The cohesiveness with which the Republicans in Congress listen to approval his position is a lesson in political harmony which is not without its value.

No one doubts a much-raked sheep as the parties who have been raked.

The Policemen and Firemen.

Once again the policemen and firemen who are upon the pension roll, together with the widows and children of the men who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty, are to be deprived of a portion of the sums allotted to them each month. The revenues which make up the pension fund are sadly inadequate.

There ought to be a determined effort on the part of the District Commissioners and the citizens of the District, as soon as Congress reconvenes, to have the law amended so that this deprivation will not occur.

There is nothing so important as keeping faith with the men still living who have faithfully served the city in hazardous duty, and with the women and children who survive those who died in protecting the city from lawlessness and conflagration.

A Georgia woman, while in a religious frenzy, drowned herself in the attempt to walk on water. She should have waited for a breeze.

One Woman's View.

When Mrs. Oliver H. P. Belmont, head of the Political Equality Association, was asked a few days ago to attend a peace banquet in her representative capacity, she courteously but firmly declined the invitation. She is for peace, of course, and she appreciates the fact that the agony of war always falls most heavily upon the women of a nation. Equally certain is she that "we women are just as proud of our national heritage of resources and opportunities, and just as jealous of our country's honor, as the men."

At the same time, she expresses a grave doubt whether the constitutional powers given Congress ought to be delegated to any international court, and she emphasizes a point which is in the minds of many who have not given their full adherence to the proposed universal arbitration. She says:

"The nations of Europe do not love us—we are in their way. To submit matters affecting our material interests to a court the majority of which is European is like going before a packed jury, and then to refuse to abide by its decision is to run the risk of being adjudged in the wrong before the bar of public opinion of the world even when convinced of the justice of our cause."

Unfortunately, the value of treaties has suffered of late in public estimation. It has already become known how Russia's persistent violation of the treaty of 1832 became a matter of national concern,

while not one of the many signatory powers to The Hague convention invoked the plain provisions of that document as a means of settling the disputes between Italy and Turkey or Russia and Persia. Mrs. Belmont believes that this country can be depended upon to act righteously under all circumstances which may arise in the future, either with or without an arbitration treaty, and "that when it is a question as to how far we should go we should keep ourselves in a position to give ourselves the benefit of the doubt."

Whether or not the arbitration treaties are ratified, Mrs. Belmont's point of view will find an echo in the discussion which is certain to precede final action.

Isn't it a great oversight that no one has thought of opening headquarters for Alton B. Parker?

Punish the Vandal.

The act of some malicious person in disgracing the painting of "The Battle of Lake Erie" in the Senate wing of the Capitol was a peculiarly flagrant case of vandalism and should receive the full punishment of the law. No personal gain could come from the disgracing of the picture, so that the act was one of wanton destruction.

Considering the great numbers of people who visit Washington and the multiplicity of objects of art and public property, the Capitol suffers little from the vandal. Even the souvenir hunter has not been so much in evidence here as in capitals of the Old World. Washington has also been particularly free from the miscreant who seeks the destruction of works of art in a spirit of malice. Indeed, it is a matter of pride that the visitors who come year by year to the Capital City are those who admire the sights, observe decorum, and avoid acts which could bring criticism or censure.

The commission of this flagrant offense calls for special efforts on the part of the police to apprehend and punish the perpetrator as a warning to others who might be inclined similarly to vent their spleen upon public property.

Representative La Follette must be often reminded that there is another gentleman of that name in politics.

Canal to the South.

An interesting report was recently submitted by the board of army engineers to the Secretary of War, bearing upon the use of the inland waters between Norfolk, Va., and Beaufort, S. C., for general transportation purposes. This report is in a sense supplementary to the last river and harbor act, which authorized the purchase by the Secretary of War of the Chesapeake and Albemarle Canal. It is now recommended that the existing waterways be enlarged to a depth of twelve feet at low tide and a width of ninety feet, so as to accommodate ordinary vessels engaged in the coastwise trade. The estimated cost of the improvements is put by the board at \$6,000,000.

If the plan is adopted by Congress and appropriations made for the various items, the result will be to open about 250 miles of inland waterways to public transportation and free from the dangers which beset ocean trips around Cape Hatteras.

In addition to the mileage of the canals to be enlarged and constructed, the proposed improvements would open to the channels of transportation about 3,000 miles of inland waters in the Carolinas now land-locked and inaccessible to the markets and shipping facilities at Norfolk and Beaufort.

The proposed improvement means much to that portion of the Atlantic coast involved, and when its interests are fully presented to the committees of Congress it is likely an appropriation will be made to carry out the work as recommended by the army engineers. In the lap of the future probably lies an enormous development of agriculture and manufacture and transportation around Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, and this opening of the inland waters of North and South Carolina may be considered part of the movement toward easier transportation for marketable products.

In reappointing Judge Mullenbary to the police court bench President Taft has recognized efficient service and has gratified the large circle of Judge Mullenbary's friends. The commendation bestowed through a second appointment is richly deserved.

Just now the ambition of all the school children would be satisfied by having as long a Christmas recess as the Supreme Court.

Perhaps it was trying to digest all the various opinions of the Sherman law which gave Attorney General Wickesham that attack of acute indigestion.

The army canteen is another of those things that are always about to be restored.

Possibly the Senate would vote unanimously for a downward revision of the taxi tariffs.

Even the longest investigations must seem short and sweet to the stenographers.

It was intimated by the President to the Secretary of State that it might be advisable to suggest to the American Ambassador at St. Petersburg that he was at liberty to hint to the Czar that this country would not be offended if the old treaty should be mutually but regretfully abrogated.

The candidates for the Presidency who are being launched from Washington all hope to behave like boomers.

At the present mileage rates the members of Congress could not travel much higher unless they came in aeroplanes.

THE WASHINGTON HERALD

WITH THE POLITICAL PROCESSION
Gossip About the Conference Between the President and Chairman Barnes, and Other Events.

William Barnes, Jr., chairman of the New York Republican State committee, in his conference with President Taft in New York City on Wednesday, did not give Mr. Taft any pledge of personal support for re-nomination, nor did he give the President any assurance that the New York State organization would be behind his candidacy in the next national convention. Mr. Barnes' talk with the President had to do chiefly with party principles, not candidates. Mr. Barnes is opposed to some of the things that the Taft administration has done, notably the attacks upon big business. He is opposed to the modern experiments in government advocated by Col. Roosevelt, and he made it plain to Mr. Taft that as head of the Republican organization in New York State he was prepared to fight against any endorsement of these deviations from representative government by the Republican State committee.

There was considerable talk yesterday among members of the New York Republican delegation in Congress in regard to Mr. Barnes' talk with Mr. Taft, and the general impression is that Barnes in his proposed campaign for Republican conservatism in New York State is likely to arouse Col. Roosevelt into activity in State politics again. In the opinion of these Republicans, there is bound to be a bitter fight in the Republican organization over Barnes' proposition to get back to the old moorings of the Republican party, and away from the new-fangled ideas. Barnes informed President Taft, it is understood, that he wanted to leave this matter to the State convention; in fact, he wanted to have the State convention decide whether or not he would accept of which would finally come the real opinion of the Republican party in the State of New York.

White President Sherman called at the White House yesterday, and his visit renewed speculation as to what is going to happen to him in the campaign for re-nomination. Mr. Sherman's friends have been urging his nomination for governor of New York, but the Vice President has kept silent on the subject. To Establish Wilson Headquarters. W. F. McCombs, who for the past eight months has been at the head of the movement for the selection of Gov. Woodrow Wilson, of New Jersey, as the Democratic nominee for the Presidency, made a flying trip to Washington yesterday, and before leaving for New York, where he maintains headquarters, announced that he would return to the National Capital for the meeting of the Democratic National Committee. The Wilson Presidential campaign has engaged headquarters at the New Willard Hotel, where he expects to meet many friends of the New Jersey executive from every section of the country while the national committee is in session. Mr. McCombs will arrive in Washington on January 2, and remain until the 9th.

Speaking of the campaign that he is directing in behalf of the nomination of the New Jersey executive by the Democracy for the Presidency, Mr. McCombs said: "Gov. Wilson will not make a gumshoe campaign. He has said repeatedly that he believes the people are entitled to know everything about him, and his candidacy upon every problem. He says he wishes the fullest publicity of all his ideas and utterances."

Kansas Is for Taft. "I must admit that I was hardly a Taft man before the convention of 1908," remarked Philip Pitt Campbell, member of Congress from Kansas, last night. "I was for Dooliver, then Senator from Iowa, and now, and it was my opinion that if President Roosevelt insisted on taking some one from his cabinet, Roosevelt was the best equipped, and I told Roosevelt so in the White House. However, his judgment was better than mine, and no one can excel me in approval of the nomination made by our last national convention."

There is no stronger Taft man on the map than your humble servant, and I am proud that Kansas will be much more for re-nomination than for the first selection of nearly four years ago. There is joy among the Taft people in Kansas that Frank McManan, owner of the Topeka State Journal, has come out squarely for the President. McManan has been cordial but rather independent. Now it demands Taft's re-nomination and election, leading all other journals in our State in praise of the President and approval of his administration. No one ever worried about Kansas being for the President, but this McManan insistence helps wonderfully, and we are proud of it."

"Kansas was ever for Roosevelt, and admires him still, but we have taken him at his word that he is not a candidate, and we will leave to inform him that his judgment in the nomination of a candidate for President was good in 1908, and we wish to approve it another four years."

Harmon's Headquarters. It was rumored Wednesday night and all day yesterday that Hiram Harmon, the real Harmon manager from Ohio, had slipped into town and was actually opening up a Harmon headquarters, without advice or consent. There was much hunting of Hiram by the Democrats who have long yearned to get a little closer to the Harmon end of things, and who have not hesitated to express a desire for attachment to the pay roll. Somehow or other the word has passed in Washington that the Harmon campaign is going to have more money than all the others combined, and there is a restless feeling among those who connect with some Presidential ambitions every four years. The hunt for Hiram was a vain one, and finally word came that he was not due with his headquarters room and typewriter until after Christmas. It is expected that following New Year's Day the work for Harmon here in Washington will be done openly and with some flourish. The apparent tendency of New York Democrats to favor Harmon, and the expected activity in behalf of New York as the convention city, has caused some anxiety in the Woodrow Wilson camp.

Interests Ohio Members. Members of the Ohio delegation in Congress were much exercised over the slashing of the "Battle of Lake Erie" painting in the Capitol rotunda, as it is the one painting of special interest to Ohio. The battle was fought north of Sandusky, on Lake Erie, and Ohio patriots like to talk about it. It was also recalled yesterday that the original painting by Powell of the battle hangs in the state house at Columbus, and the one that was cut by a vandal here in Washington is really a copy, but by the same artist. There has even been insistence by Ohio visitors that the original picture in Columbus has some stronger original points of excellence, but this home pride has aroused no jealousy at this end of the line.

With the renewed interest in the Perry painting, some of the Ohio members wondered what had become of the Tecumseh, but that years ago occupied a prominent place in the Capitol corridors.

Conflict in Opinion. Don't kiss the dog; it is most dangerous, and mouth diseases will follow, says one medical authority. Kiss the dog all you please; there is no danger of disease therefrom, says another scientific sharp. This conflict of opinion is simply terrible and leaves an agitated nation no other recourse than to flip a coin to settle the burning canine osculation question.

Her Beautiful Life. From the Raleigh News and Observer. The serious illness of Clara Barton at the Christmas season emphasizes the great work she has done. She will be ninety years old on Christmas Day. The Christian idea in the world has been enriched by her unselfish and beautiful life.

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RUSSIA AND PERSIA

How can Great Britain protest against Russia's action in sending troops to safeguard her interests in Persia in consequence of the situation brought about by Morgan Shuster's ill-advised note, not to say tactless offense to that government when Russia merely is doing in her sphere of Persia what England is doing in the British and neutral spheres? Russia's procedure is said to be a violation of the integrity and dependence of Persia. Of course it is, but so is England's action in sending her Indian cavalry to occupy Shiraz and Bushire. Why not, first of all, denounce the Anglo-Russian convention which divided Persia against the wishes of its rulers into Russian and British "spheres of influence," for that convention is nothing but a negation of that independence and integrity which the powers agreed to for Persia.

The Persians are a romantic people, who have charmed humanity by the grace of their poets and the beauty of their art. This is a picturesque view of the Persian people; but, after all, what the European trader wants is protection, not poetry, and this is just what the Persian government cannot give him. "Leave the Persians alone," says Lord Curzon, "and they will work through chaos to tranquility," but in his report to the foreign office, which was published on the same day as Lord Curzon's speech, the British consul at Bushire told another tale, namely, that Persian rule is inept and played out, and that unless England sent troops to keep order in Southern Persia, British trade would come to an end.

As to the dispute between the Russian consul general at Teheran and Morgan Shuster, what are the facts? Both the Russian and the Persian governments having claims on the property of the Shusha brothers. Prince Shusha-Sultaneh, the Russian consul general, agreed to discuss with Mr. Shuster's representatives what arrangements should be made for satisfying the interests of the Shusha family, but while the conference was in progress Mr. Shuster sent his own treasury police to seize Shusha-Sultaneh's house and property, and so forestall any joint action which might be arranged as a result of the conference. What made matters worse was that when the Russian consul general sent his officials to Shusha-Sultaneh's house to assert the claims of his government they were refused admission by Mr. Shuster's policemen. The Russian government regarded Mr. Shuster's action as a breach of diplomatic faith, and is inclined to think that any government would have taken the same view under similar conditions.

Ex-Sultan Abdul Hamid's jewels have been hurried into the market, and no time was given to amateurs or connoisseurs of such baubles to come from other countries, especially the two Americas, where multimillionaires abound. The private rooms of the Petit galleries at Paris were so crowded that those who were hardly seated had to stand. And when these rooms were at last opened to the general public there was a fearful crush. The sale itself took place at the Rue Drouot auction rooms.

The bulk of the Turkish regalia is still at the treasury of the old seraglio, and what was sent to Paris was mainly from the ex-Sultan's jewel room at the Yildiz Kiosk. A great quantity is from the Harem of the Sultan, and the Palais Royal in the days of the Second Empire and the early years of the French republic. There are many others that seem to bear the hand of the Regent and the Tulleries, and the way of ridding round large pearls with small brilliants is a favorite of the Second Empire. The ex-Sultan had as great a fancy for emeralds as the late Pope had for rubies.

Abdul Hamid liked to have chapters made of them, and his emeralds and rubies stood high in his favor. He gave them of great value. Yet, strictly speaking, he had but a life interest in them, as in Ottoman law the Sultan is the heir of any of his beauties who die in the seraglio, and whenever he married off one the treasurer of his harem saw that she took with her only what the padishah bestowed as wedding presents.

Among the collection on exhibition an emerald brooch, composed of a round oval stone of enormous size, with a pear-shaped pendant of proper size, excited the covetousness of ladies overlooking the value of such things. The brooch is set in brilliants in Second Empire style, but the pendant is not. The large emerald that can be worn with short adorned chains as a necklace, or without them as a bracelet, are set in rings of brilliants, and have between the rings a large brilliant.

A great deal has been written about the "great diadem" which was the "chef d'oeuvre" of the exhibit. But to my mind the Byzantine and other diadems, the "rivers" brooches, bracelets, and coronets of Greek and Roman "fender" designs, often lovely in themselves, must, from their European style, have been absent in a seraglio. Jewelry can only be worn with zest on occasions of high festivity and in banqueting or ballrooms. I once saw at a ball, on the head of a Palais Royal ex-aetate, then the wife of a territorial magnate, a necklace of the great diadem composed of entrails (the design of Ghent ducal or Venetian lace is formed of "entrails"), studded with brilliants, and bearing in a bold, long curve an aigrette plume, each feather of which was also diamond-frosted and terminated in large brilliants of the most intense fire.

The whole affair, in a strong light, struck one as a pyrotechnic show, as an object to be fitfully worn upon the stage or at a court banquet—in short, as a center upon which all eyes must converge. But it must have been torture to a harem beauty fresh in favor to wear this diadem in the seclusion of the seraglio. The only consolation it could give was in the proclamation it made to her sister beauties that, for the moment she stood high above them.

The collection contained none of the arms or head ornaments of the former Sultan, or of his court or far-back predecessors. The saris of twisted patterns laid on a gold foundation were also diamond-studded. They look like egg cups or Oriental coffee cups, and were of a sort of tremulous bouquet, in which pear-shaped emeralds took the place of say, harbells, and charmed all eyes that saw and the leaves frosted all over with rose diamonds. Pearls came in as dewdrops. There were "dog collars" and the other numerous compasses of jewelry. The sale went on for ten days, and to come within that time had to be somewhat rushed, as was that of the French Crown Jewels.

The navy committee of the Turkish Parliament had rearranged the auction, and the proceeds are to go in strengthening the Turkish navy fleet. It appears that the two ironclads that the German empire threw in with a loan are practically worthless as compared with the Italian vessels now in Tripolitan waters. The jewels in the treasury have been accumulating ever since the Sultan Achmet entered the basilica of St. Sophia, in old Byzantium, on horseback and commanded that thenceforth it should be "devoted to the cult of Allah, and all its idle riches be destroyed."

From the Boston Herald-Examiner. Acute indigestion seems to be rather popular in official Washington just now, but it would be as much as his reputation is worth for Dr. Wiley to have an attack of it.

From the New Orleans Times. It is remarked in Washington that the insurgent Republicans think well of that part of President Taft's trust message in which he advocates the retention of the Sherman antitrust law, but recommends that it be supplemented with legislation more clearly defining unfair practices to be forbidden by the law.

From the New York Tribune. The outrageous mutilation of the painting of "The Battle of Lake Erie" in the Capitol at Washington, may serve as a reminder of a curious anecdote in that admired work of art, namely, that the American flag which forms the central feature, and, indeed, the "leading motive" of the composition, is represented with thirteen stripes, whereas the flag at that time, and for years before and years afterward, had fifteen stripes. That is an error, however, which appears in other historical paintings, while at least one depicts the Stars and Stripes as carried at the head of the army long before the first such flag was made. But even that is not as bad as the canvas of an old master, which shows a Roman soldier in the time of Christ armed with a blunderbuss!

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STATESMEN, REAL AND NEAR.

By FRED C. KELLY.

Some months ago Senator Norris Brown, of Nebraska, laid down a flat rule that he would avoid Pullman smoking compartments and barber shops in strange cities. He says that if he were to listen, day after day, to the things he hears in strange barber shops it would make him a saddened and morose man.

Not long ago he was billed for a speech in a Nebraska town that he seldom visits, and where he is known only by reputation. As his face felt like a bath mat, he went at once to a barber shop, before hunting up the committee in charge of the meeting.

The man in the next chair asked the barber who operated on Brown: "Going to the meeting?" "Nup," replied the barber. "Well, you know, Senator Brown's going to speak," remarked the man in the next chair, with some little enthusiasm. Brown was a Republican and the barber was a Democrat, and the latter replied: "That's just why I ain't goin'—at the same time giving a vicious aside to the barber that pulled a mole off Brown's chin, and started a stream of his life blood."

Brown raised up in his chair. "I wish," he suggested quietly, "that you would not be so rapid in your political differences with this man Brown as to take it out on me."

A short time before that, Brown sat in a Pullman smoking compartment. Two other men, both strangers to Brown, were also there. "Norris Brown still United States Senator from this State?" asked one of the travelers.

The other one nodded. "Pretty good fellow, isn't he?" "Oh, yes; he isn't a bad sort," conceded the second stranger, "but I've often wondered why they didn't send his brother to the Senate instead of him. I happen to know them both; fact is, the Brown boys and I used to wear each other's clothes. But I would have picked the other one if I'd been doing it."

And Brown still wondering who his intimate acquaintance was.

In the same connection one recalls the sad case of Miles Pondexter, insurgent Senator from the State of Washington. Last June Senator Pondexter sent to the commencement exercises of Washington and Lee University, at Lexington, Va., where he attended college. While there he strolled about the little town and engaged a few of the old residents in conversation.

"Suppose the college boys keep things pretty lively here," he remarked to one old chap that he fell in with. "No, not any more," replied the old resident, "Not like they used to. Now, I've been living here now for more than thirty-six years and we haven't had these boys lively since I don't know when. Years ago there was a fellow named Pondexter here that used to put some cocaine on that," asked Allen, in considerable perturbation.

"No," said the doctor smilingly, as he slipped his little knife in the top up to the hilt. "You once wrote some unkind things about my brother. Here's where the family gets even."

War Secretary Stimson has a number of personal characteristics that seem to have grown out of his long association with Senator Root in the latter's law office in New York. Stimson has a way of drawing himself up and pushing back his hair that is almost identical with one of Root's motions. Another one is his manner of gesturing with one hand and holding the high arm jabbing the atmosphere with his forefinger.

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CANNOT ABOLISH CHRISTMAS.

A JOYOUS SEASON, Even if It Is Called a "Semi-pagan Saturnalia."

From the Memphis News-Sentinel. It always happens. Every year somebody hobbles up with a proposition to abolish Christmas.

This year it is a preacher in New York State, who says that Christmas has become "completely secularized," an occasion for extravagances and overwork, a weariness and a reproach to religion.

"Better abolish the festival," he says, "than make it a semi-pagan saturnalia."

It is quite possible that Santa Claus, with his sweet traditions, redolent of brotherly love, charity and the impartial love of the universal Father of us all, has done more for the promotion of real religion than all the preachers in the world.

Take Santa Claus and the spirit, sentiments and emotions he stands for out of the world for a single generation, and the true message of Christ would become incomprehensible to the human mind.

Too many belong to that class who look upon religion only as the means by which one secures the eternal salvation of his own soul. Any meaning beyond that is blank to them.

Real blood-warm, heart-deep sympathy and love for humanity, such as is represented in and aroused by Santa Claus at Christmas time—the sacrifice without hope of credit, the giving for the mere sake of the blessed joy of giving and receiving—are all an "impoture" and a "semi-pagan saturnalia" in the mind of that narrow, inaccurate selfishness which seeks in religion only the salvation of its own stony little soul.

Santa Claus may be an "impoture," but the joy he brings to millions of little hearts is genuine.

Christmas may be a "semi-pagan saturnalia," but it mellowes the hearts of millions of men.

The world cannot afford to lose either. Nor will it.

There is a charm in the name and a spell in the air that exhilarates youth as nothing else can, and brings back to old age the virgin emotions of childhood. Its spirit is holy, its traditions ennobling, and its sweet superstitions are sacred.

Every instinct lying at the source of man's moral nature requires that there be a time in the year when for a few brief hours self may be forgotten, when the heart may turn tender and the coarse passions soften, friends be drawn more closely and enemies forgiven, peace descend